

precisely similar to those of Louyet. He did not detect any copper in the vegetables raised from that soil, but this is ascribed to the insufficiency of the analysis, and probably somewhat also to the decomposing effect of the carbonate of lime in the earth, on the sulphate of copper.

M. Verver also planted balls made of the mixture of the grain and of arsenic; (as is frequently done by farmers;) vegetation was not in the least impeded; the plants did not contain the poison, although it was detected in a soluble state in the soil several months thereafter.

A similar result occurred when arsenic and arseniate of potass in powder were inserted at the root of growing plants, but watering them with a solution of the above substances speedily induced death.

From these results, our author is induced to believe that the practice of farmers, of scattering arsenic over their cultivated grounds, in order to destroy noxious animals, cannot prove injurious to the cereals growing in them.

The examiners of the above memoirs seem notwithstanding inclined to dissuade from the use of this dangerous material.—*Bulletin of the Royal Academy of Brussels*, vol. 8, May, 1841. T. R. B.

83. *Superfœtation*.—Mr. Renaudin presented to the Academy a two-lobed uterus, of which the following was the history. A female, aged 23 years, six months advanced in pregnancy, aborted. After suffering severe abdominal pains for a week, she was admitted into the Hospital Beaujon. M. Renaudin found her labouring under the most marked symptoms of puerperal peritonitis, and she died in seven days thereafter.

On dissection, the external organs and the vagina were found to be natural, but the uterus had a double neck, and was divided into two cavities completely separated from each other, with an ovary, fallopian tube and ligaments to each. The left cavity, much larger than the right, still contained some bloody spots, and from this the fœtus is supposed to have proceeded. With such an anatomical conformation, it is supposed that superfœtation might have occurred.

The present is a proper place to mention that I have read with pleasure the article "*Generation*," by Dr. Allen Thomson in the "*Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*." In his remarks on Superfœtation, he has however, committed one error of some importance, viz., increasing incorrectly the number of *extraordinary* cases. The first is quoted from Burdach, and related on the authority of Eisenmann. The fifth is quoted from Velpeau, and is related of a Madame Bigaux. Now these are one and the same case. Madame Bigaud Vivier on the 30th of April, 1748, was delivered of a living child, and on the 16th of September succeeding, another of full size and mature was born. The mother, who had also a child in 1752, died of an acute disease in 1755, and was examined by Prof. Eisenmann, who found the parts natural. *There was no double uterus*. My authority for this is Devergie, *Medecine Legale*, vol. 1, p. 489, 1st edition. Desgranges' case is equally remarkable with the above, but in this there was no dissection.

The following remarkable case is quoted in the British and Foreign Quarterly Review of October, 1841, from the communications of a Society of Physicians practising at Riga. "A robust girl conceived in February, and in consequence menstruation ceased. In June, she aborted. To her dismay, soon after the symptoms of advanced pregnancy appeared, and in the beginning of November, five months after the abortion, she was delivered of a full grown child, which doubtless, was the result of the same impregnation, as the fœtus expelled at the fourth month."—*Bulletin of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris*, sitting of the 21st of December, 1841. T. R. B.

84. *Plea of Quick with child in criminal cases*.—At a meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held in August last at York in England, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Griffiths of Wexham, and carried.

"The attention of this Association having been called to the present state of the law as it affects female criminals under sentence of death, it desires to re-

cord its strong feelings of repugnance to a statute, which permits the woman who has quickened, to plead pregnancy in bar of execution; whilst the same individual, though equally the mother of a living child, but not having quickened, must suffer the extreme penalty of the law; thus making a distinction where there is no difference, and fatally, though ignorantly, sacrificing an innocent life with that of the guilty parent; and though not prepared on the present occasion to take any decided steps, the Association fully recognises its obligation to adopt at some future time such measures as will, it trusts, lead to the abrogation of a law, cruel in its effects, inconsistent with the progress of knowledge and civilization, and consequently revolting to the feelings and claims of humanity."—*Edinburgh and London Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, September, 1841. T. R. B.

85. *Presence of Lead in the solids and fluids.*—In a case at King's College Hospital, London, treated by Dr. Budd, where the patient had been a house painter for five years, and died from colic and epilepsy, the metal was detected in the brain by chemical analysis, "but Mr. Bowman could obtain no evidence of it by the microscope." This examination appears to have been made, from the fact stated, that in two cases observed by Devergie and Guibourt, in which lead was detected in the brain, the white matter of the organ examined under the microscope by M. Gluck, was said to be remarkably altered in its minute structure.

Dr. Budd presents the above case as an illustration of the continued effects of lead on the system. It remains in it. The poisonous preparations of lead do not pass off, or at least very sparingly, in the secretions. "In this respect, they form a striking contrast with iodide of potassium. When the latter accumulates in the blood, it produces sneezing, watery eyes, headache and a variety of other symptoms, but it passes off readily in the urine and other secretions, and at the end of two days, if no more of the medicine be given, the symptoms vanish. The poison of lead, on the contrary, remains in the system, and its effects are consequently lasting."

The fact that acetate of lead has been lately detected in the urine, confirms the idea that it is the least poisonous of the salts of this metal.

"It is stated by M. Liebig, in his work on Organic Chemistry, that sulphuric acid lemonade—a solution of sugar rendered acid by sulphuric acid—is a preservative from the injurious effects of lead; and that colic is entirely unknown in all manufactories of white lead, in which the workmen are accustomed to drink it."—*London Medical Gazette*, December, 1841. T. R. B.

86. *Chevallier on a new mode of distinguishing arsenical spots from antimonial spots.*—M. BISCHOFF, a Saxon, mentions in the *Pharmaceutisches Centralblatt*, No. 26, a mode of distinguishing arsenical spots produced by the apparatus of Marsh, from those of antimony. It is founded on the property possessed by the chlorite of soda (*liquor of Labarraque*) of dissolving the arsenical ones, whilst it does not affect the others.

Being desirous of ascertaining the value of this test, M. CHEVALLIER, associating with himself M. LABARRAQUE, prepared on various capsules 1. spots of arsenic; 2. spots of antimony; and 3. spots of antimony and arsenic; and they found that the arsenical spots disappeared instantly, when the chlorite of soda came in contact with them—that the antimonial spots were not altered in colour, and finally that the spots consisting of a mixture of the two, lost a portion of the colour, owing as they suppose, to a solution of the arsenic in the chlorite of soda. This was confirmed by taking the chlorite laying on these spots, adding muriatic acid, and then passing a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen through it. A precipitate of sulphuret of arsenic was obtained, which was entirely soluble in ammonia.

MM. Chevallier and Labarraque propose to continue these observations, and to ascertain whether it is not possible by means of the chlorite of soda to